



Chester County, Pennsylvania

established 1725

London Britain Township Newsletter

August 2005

Managing LBT's deer population

The local deer population is literally eating us out of house and home. Crops are being destroyed, homeowner's landscaping and gardens are being decimated. Currently the automobile is a the deer's major predator.

LBT resident Ellis Schmidt is establishing a deer management program on his 60 acres in LBT and wants to inform others in LBT and Franklin Townships about the program and how landowners with 20 or more acres can also establish a deer management plan for their properties.

At the township meeting on July 25, the township heard from experts on the problem. Tim Smail from the Pennsylvania Game Commission presented an overview of the deer overpopulation and expressed his desire to train hunters and establish a good solution to reducing the deer herds in the area.

Bob Hewton from Kennett Township's Deer Management Committee presented Kennett's plan for matching landowners and hunters to reduce the deer populations. Basically the township sponsors hunter training sessions and compiles resumes and information about hunters. Landowners are invited to review the hunter's resume and choose the hunters they would like to invite onto their property to hunt during the deer-hunting season.

Herds of deer range over a 1.5 mile radius. To effectively reduce deer populations, it will take the cooperation of many landowners and hunters.

Hunters and landowners interested in participating in a deer management program, contact the township office at 610-255-0388.

CREP grant plants trees and "rents" the soil from township



Each white post is a tree sapling that has been wrapped in a protective covering to keep the deer from eating the tender new leaves. In a few years the trees that survive will form a riparian buffer that will make the stream healthier.

On 7.7 acres of already dedicated open space, (part of the Mason Dixon Greenway South) near the Flint Hill Crossing development on Strickersville Road, a lot of tree seedlings were planted this spring—about 158 trees per acre. A crew, contracted through the federal government, came to the site, planted trees in rows (as a riparian buffer) about 16 feet apart, and moved on to another site in the state.

Riparian buffers filter storm water runoff before it enters a stream. It is just one of many conservation projects that can be funded through the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP). Landowners willing to place part of their land in conservation easement could qualify for state and federal grants for this purpose.

As the owners of the property, the township received grant money of \$15,400 for allowing the riparian buffer of trees to be planted along the stream.

For the next 15 years the township will also receive soil rental fees from the state and federal government. For the

7.7-acre parcel it will receive \$1311.20 per year. Another 4.5-acre parcel will receive an additional \$623.20 per year.

According to the Farm Service Agency's website (www.fsa.usda.gov/dafp/cepd/crep.htm), "The Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) is a voluntary land retirement program that helps agricultural producers protect environmentally sensitive land, decrease erosion, restore wildlife habitat, and safeguard ground and surface water.... CREP addresses high-priority conservation issues of both local and national significance, such as impacts to water supplies, loss of critical habitat for threatened and endangered wildlife species, soil erosion, and reduced habitat for fish populations such as salmon. CREP is a community-based, results-oriented effort centered around local participation and leadership."

"The Pennsylvania CREP was developed to help protect the Chesapeake Bay from the effects of excessive nutrient and sediment loading due to agricul-

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Cramer Property donated to Preserve

The Cramer's, Gwen and Richard and their four children, lived in the three-story house, halfway up the hill on South Bank Road (near the London Tract Meeting House). They owned about 100 acres of land, in five separate parcels—about 58 acres of land between South Bank Road and London Tract Roads and another 51 acres (about 1 mile as the crows flies) sandwiched between Yeatman's Station Road, the White Clay Creek Preserve, White Clay State Park and the Delaware border.

In the early 1960s, shortly after moving into the quiet farming community of London Britain Township, the Cramer's were being pressured to sell their land to the DuPont Company for a proposed dam in Delaware. The Cramers refused to sell their land. Gwen became actively involved in the movement that stopped the White Clay Creek from being dammed.

After Gwen's death, the property was sold to the Natural Lands Trust. It was a long, arduous process (three years) to pull the deal together. The Natural Lands Trust raised the funds through grants from the Chester County Preservation Partnership Program, the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, the William Penn Foundation, and the Bureau of State Parks and the sale of the house subdivision. Most of the land will be donated to the state of Pennsylvania and incorporated into the White Clay Creek Preserve as open space, although two parcels were subdivided out of the donation.

One, a 10-acre tract including the house and barn was subdivided because the Preserve did not want the buildings. This parcel recently sold to a private owner and cannot be subdivided again.

A second 14-acre parcel (on the corner where London Tracts bends at Indiantown Road) was subdivided and kept by one of the heirs. This parcel has a conservation easement on it and can only have one house and barn.

The remaining 34 acres is being donated to the park. The entire 51 acres off Yeatman's Station Road will become park land.

Subdivisions of property are not something Natural Lands Trust deals with everyday. London Britain Township helped with the process and waived the standard subdivision fees to support this effort for open space preservation. "The Cramer's property is listed on both the county's Linking Landscapes maps and the Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission's open space maps as desirable lands for preservation," said Sally Cheyne, township secretary. "The township wanted to see these land preserved. We are glad it worked out this way."

"The Cramers always wanted to see their property preserved," said Stefferud. "None of the Cramer's heirs lived in the area. The heirs approached the state and us. Neither the state nor the county had the funds to purchase the property outright. Natural Lands Trust was in a position to apply for the grants needed to purchase the property."

The property was also receiving private interest from developers. Stefferud related a conversation with one of the family members involved that stated the family would love to have the land stay open as long as the Natural Lands Trust could pay just as much as the developers were offering. London Britain's Planning Commission had conversations with developers about what would be required to develop the land along London Tract Road.

"Had these parcels been developed, we would have lost some of the beauty of the White Clay Creek Preserve. It would have been a real loss," said Jack Stefferud, project director at Natural Lands Trust. "People already thought it was part of the White Clay Creek Preserve. This is a major access point into preserve."

The Cramer's parcels off Yeatman's Station Road gave access to the White

Clay Creek and western side of the White Clay Creek Preserve. Although part of the land was sloped and not developable, part of the land was considered prime real estate for development. If the land were to be developed it would have blocked access to this section of the Preserve.

The 34 acres on London Tract Road have also been identified as one of the connecting lands of the Mason Dixon Greenway. This parcel is one more piece of the puzzle in place that will bring a continual greenway from the Fair Hill Natural Resources Area in Maryland, to the White Clay Creek Preserve in Pennsylvania, and further connecting to the White Clay Creek State Park in Delaware.

"The area around the Preserve has changed so little over the years compared to other areas..." said Sally Ives (Cramer). "We [the heirs] had differing feelings about the property... Some of us felt strongly that the land shouldn't be developed. It's special land... My parents never liked seeing development. For me, this is the best thing that could have happened. Mother and father would have been pleased."

CREP continued....

tural runoff. The State of Pennsylvania, as part of the Chesapeake Bay Agreement, is working to reduce sediment loading by 1.6 million tons and nitrogen and phosphorus loading by 2 million pounds per year," states the web site.

Call this a win-win situation for London Britain Township, not only is there a little extra money in the township's coffers, but one section of a tributary that eventually enters the Chesapeake Bay now has a whole lot of new trees to form a riparian buffer that filters the water before it enters the stream.

What will the future of LBT be?

"A comprehensive plan defines how we think the township should be," said Planning Commission Chairman Joe McNelis. "It is our plan for the future. It defines scenic roads and viewsheds; defines lands we want to keep as open space, and areas for development and commercial districts."

LBT is about to embark on revising its comprehensive plan. This important document defines the township's plan for the future and should be updated and revised every ten years.

A committee is being formed to work with a consultant (paid for by a country grant) to update LBT's comp plan. The

township is continually changing. The last plan does not even have the London Britain Land Trust or the Mason Dixon Greenway included in the plan. These initiatives and many others must be added to protect the interests of the township.

"We would like input from a variety of residents, not the same people that are already serving on township committees and commissions," said McNelis. "It will involve one meeting a month."

Anyone wishing more information or willing to become a member of the Comp Plan Committee can contact McNelis at 610-255-0262.

Fair Hill—the southern connection

A great natural resource, linking to the Mason Dixon Greenway South, is Fairhill State Park in Maryland. This beautiful park complete with walking, equestrian and mountain bike paths, covers almost 5,000 acres and is open to the public. It is maintained and supported through Maryland State funding and a non profit corporation, Footprints Only, Inc.

The Mason Dixon trail opened last year providing a corridor for residents in the lower part of the township through the woods and fields along Flint Hill Road and Elbow Lane to Fairhill State Park.

Usage increased dramatically as word of this trail spread throughout the lower part of the township. There was one unfortunate result. The access trail into Fairhill State Park became degraded to

the point of needing hundred of dollars of maintenance.

On Saturday, July 16, a group of volunteers from Elbow Lane and surrounding areas met to clear a new trail that would provide a safe and dry passage to this great park for all who want to embrace and enjoy its natural beauty. Maintenance of this new trail, and repair of the old trail, although on Maryland soil, is primarily for the benefits of London Britain Township residents.

To preserve the privilege of accessing this great park and to encourage good neighbor practices we have invited a park ranger from Fairhill State Park to speak at the township meeting scheduled for August 22. Please show your support by attending this meeting and learning more about this beautiful park.

Special Collection Days in September

September 10 • 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Household Hazardous Waste Collection

Bring unwanted hazardous household, automotive, home maintenance, lawn and pest control products to the next Regional Southeastern Pennsylvania Household Hazardous Waste Collection at the New Garden Township Building- Route 41.

For more information contact the Chester County Hazardous Waste Hotline at 610-344-6692.

September 17 • Noon to 4 p.m.

Electronics Recycling Day

SECCRA (Southeastern Chester County Refuse Authority) is sponsoring an Electronics Recycling Day where you can properly dispose of any piece of electronic equipment from computers and peripherals, to TVs, VCRs, microwaves. Anything electronic, with a cord, will be accepted. An electronics recycling com-

Newsletter celebrates 20 years

In April 1985, residents of London Britain Township received their first township newsletter. The first article titled, "Welcome," was written by then Chairman of Supervisors John Steinchen. In the welcome he wrote,

"We hope that through this publication we can provide the Township residents with current information on the roads, subdivisions, taxes, zoning changes, the activities of other governmental agencies, and any other tidbits which properly belong in the public domain...."

A large number of the 1650 residents of the Township are, as is the writer, newcomers to this area. Most are unaware that Pennsylvania townships are unique in their power to control their own communities. The Board hopes by publicizing the activities of the Township government, there will be an increased participation by all residents."

Stories in the newsletter included snow removal, the SPCA, updates on the new White Clay Creek State Park Bi-State Advisory Council, meeting dates and location of the township building, zoning, and a phone directory. Under the story "Taxes" it stated the tax rate was 2 mils (for township taxes) with an average cost of \$20/family.

The supervisors still encourage all residents to get involved in their township. Meetings are the second and fourth Mondays of each month.

pany has been contracted to properly dispose of these unwanted items on this day. For questions contact SECCRA at 610-869-2452.

The SECCRA landfill is located at 215 Street Road, in West Grove. An open house will also be held. Come learn about this state-of-the-art facility.

London Britain Township Directory

Board of Supervisors

Janie Schnelle, Chairman
Glenn C. Frederick, Vice Chairman
David Owens, Member

Township Employees

Township Secretary- Sally Cheyne
Director of Public Works-Dave Messaros
Assist. Township Secretary- Carolyn Matalon
Roadmaster- Joe Ferguson
Township Engineer- Pat Walsh/Walsh Engr.
Tax Collector- Margaret Boddie
Treasurer- Nette Stejskal
Park Events Director- Carolyn Matalon
Newsletter Editor- Carla Lucas

Township Office/Meeting Hall/Garage

81 Good Hope Road
Landenberg, Pa. 19350

Mailing Address:

P. O. Box 215, Kemblesville, PA 19347

Phone: 610-255-0388

Fax: 610-255-3542

Email: carolyn.londonbritaintwp@comcast.net

Web site:

www.londonbritaintownship-pa.gov

Township Meetings

All meetings are held at the LBT Meeting Hall

Board of Supervisors Meetings:
2nd and 4th Mondays, 7 PM

Planning Commission Meetings:
2nd and 4th Tuesdays, 7 PM

Mason Dixon Greenway update

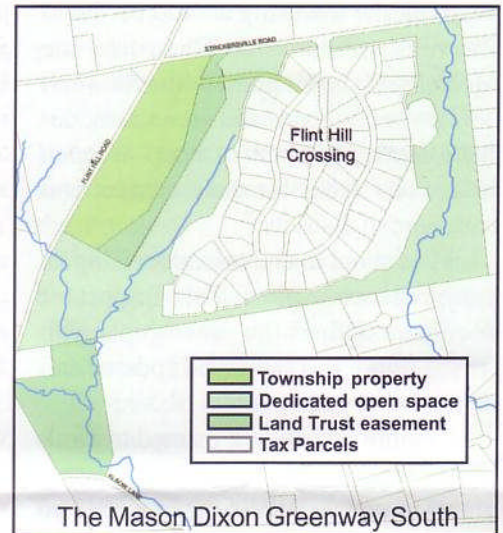
Two of the four miles of corridor, identified in the Mason Dixon Greenway have been preserved in LBT. The concept is to have a natural corridor through LBT connecting the White Clay Creek Preserve and the Fair Hill Natural Resource Area in Maryland.

"This unique land concept is something most townships do not have," said Sally Cheyne, township secretary. "The drive to get this corridor was to create an animal habitat and reforest the land. We are halfway there."

At the northern end, about a half-mile corridor of 34 acres of preserved open space connects to the White Clay Creek Preserve.

About a 1.5 mile corridor and 100 acres where LBT meets Fair Hill Natural Resource Area is dedicated open space. Seventy acres are dedicated open space, maintained by the homeowners of Flint Hill Crossing under management of the London Britain Land Trust. At the corner, there are 18 acres of township property (a gift from the developer). The rest of the land, 13 acres, is owned by the London Britain Land Trust and under conservation easement.

A grant (\$25,000) has been obtained through the Pennsylvania



Department of Conservation and Natural Resources to develop a master site plan for the Mason Dixon Greenway South. The master site plan will determine the allowable uses for this 100 acres of preserved land.

"The plan is totally open-based in the beginning," said Cheyne. "Everyone comes together and agrees on the use of the land. A steering committee is needed to determine what residents want and what can be done on the land. What evolves is a management plan for the natural area."

Cheyne is looking for five or six residents to help her on this short-term project. She envisions no more than six meetings to develop the master site plan. If interested, please contact the township office at 610-255-0388.

Braking the Cycle to ride through LBT

FYI-- On the morning of Friday, September 16, about 100 bicyclists participated in Braking the Cycle, a charity ride from Aberdeen Maryland to New York City, will pass through the township. Leave extra time traveling that day in case there are delays.

London Britain Township
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